

AREA OF TRIPURA

*651. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) how much of the area of Tripura is Government reserve and how much of it is owned by Tea Garden owners;

(b) whether any Government reserve land or the land of Tea Garden owners has been released for the rehabilitation of displaced persons and if so, what is its total acreage; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Rehabilitation Department has asked for the release of certain reserve lands and Government refused to do so?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Area of Government Forest Reserve in Tripura 1,020 square miles, Area owned by Tea Gardens 85 square miles.

(b) Government reserved lands released for rehabilitation of displaced persons 9,316 acres, Tea Garden area released for rehabilitation Nil.

(c) The request of the Rehabilitation Department of the State for the release of further lands from Tulakona Fuel Reserve was not agreed to as such release would seriously affect the fuel supply to Agartala, this reserve being the only source of fuel supply to the town.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: May I know whether the amount of reserve land was determined by the cadastral survey or otherwise?

Dr. Katju: I could not tell you.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Does the hon. Minister think that the amount of land allotted to displaced persons is quite sufficient for the purpose, because the number of displaced persons is 2-1/2 lakhs?

Dr. Katju: I have placed before the House the information that is available. I propose to go to Tripura in another week and shall look into this matter on the spot.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: Do the Government intend to allot cultivable lands to the tea garden labourers out of land requisitioned from the tea garden owners?

Dr. Katju: You have asked a question about displaced persons. Now you come to tea garden labourers. I

am afraid I cannot give you a reply offhand.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may address the Chair.

MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICE EMPLOYEES

*652. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state what are the unions representing the Military Engineering Service Employees, which have been accorded recognition?

(b) Are there any unions of MES employees whose applications for recognition have not been granted and if so, what is their number?

(c) Have the Government of India received representations from the MES employees and their unions enumerating their complaints regarding the accumulation of arrears of payments, victimisation of Trade Union functionaries, violation of weekly off-day rules, half day on Saturdays etc., and if so, what action have Government taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) (i) The Madras Area MES Civilian Employees Union, Madras; (ii) MES Employees Union Deccan Area; Secunderabad; (iii) Engineering Stores Depot Employees Union, Bombay; (iv) MES Employees Union Poona Area Poona; (v) MES Workers Union, Bareilly Division, Bareilly.

(b) Applications for grant of recognition to the undermentioned two unions are under consideration of the Government:—

(i) MES Workers Union (Area Committee), Ambala.

(ii) MES Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh, Poona.

(c) Yes. Suitable action has been taken as necessary and the complaints redressed, where necessary.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know Sir, whether it is a fact that the application for recognition of a Union named the MES Workers' Union, Agra, has been pending final decision, and if so, why is the delay?

Sardar Majithia: No, Sir, there are only two Unions, consideration of whose recognition is pending—the MES Workers' Union, Ambala, and MES Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh, Poona.